Message Text

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DEPT. PASS TREASURY AND EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: TEXT OF EC COMMISSION REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1222, (B) EC BRUSSELS 676 (C) 75 EC BRUSSELS 11474, (D) 75 EC BRUSSELS 4312

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE TERMS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE AN EXPORT CREDIT GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE MAY 1975 GERBERTH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL (SEE REF D).THE COMMISSION

PROPOSES THAT PARTICIPANTS ADHERE TO THE AGREEMENT THROUGH PARALLEL UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MISSION HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF THE COMMISSION'S CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST TO THE EC COUNCIL FOR AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AN EXPORT CREDIT GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT. THE COMMISSION-PROPOSED NEGOTIATING MANDATE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS: THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD TAKE EFFECT THROUGH

UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. ITS DURATION WOULD BE FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS. BEFORE THE END OF THE TRIAL PERIOD, EACH PARTICIPANT COULD DECLARE UNILATERALLY THAT THE PERIOD IS EXTENDED TO FIVE YEARS.

- 3. RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WOULD BE BROKEN INTO THREE GROUPS ACCORDING TO PER CAPITA GNP: (1) \$1000 AND LESS; (2) MORE THAN \$1000 TO \$3000; AND (3) OVER \$3000. THE MAXIMUM MATURITY PERIODS OF CREDITS WOULD BE: (1) FIRST GROUP, 10 YEARS; (2) SECOND GROUP, 8.5 YEARS; AND (3) THIRD GROUP, 5 YEARS. MINIMAL LEVELS OF INTEREST RATES WOULD BE FIXED FOR ALL CREDITS WITH A MATURITY PERIOD LONGER THAN TWO YEARS. THE RATE FOR CREDITS OF 2-5 YEARS' DURATION WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THE MINIMUM RATES FOR LONGER-TERM CREDITS. THE DIFFERENT MINIMUM RATES WILL BE BETWEEN 7-9 PERCENT; THESE MINIMA WILL APPLY SOLELY TO NET INTEREST RATES. THE MINIMUM DOWNPAYMENT FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND GROUP OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WILL BE 15 PERCENT; FOR THE THIRD, 20 PERCENT.
- 4. EXCEPTIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE MATURITY LIMITS FOR OECD SECTORAL AGREEMENTS AND, AFTER PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, FOR OTHER CLEARLY- DEFINED BUT LIMITED CASES. THEMATURITY LIMITS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CREDITS MAY NOT BE EXTENDED. (COMMENT: THESE TYPES OF CREDITS ARE NOT SPECIFIED.) DEVELOPMENT AID WOULD NOT BE COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT WILL INCLUDE HOW THE INTEREST RATE FOR PUBLIC CREDITS IS TO BE DEFINED. OTHER COUNTRIES MAY ALIGN THEIR CREDIT TERMS WITH THOSE OF THE AGREEMENT AS LONG AS THE INITIAL EXPIRATION DATE HAS NOT BEEN PASSED. PARTICIPANTS MAY MATCH THEIR TERMS WITH THOSE OF COUNTRIES NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE AGREEMENT.
- 5. A MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS WILL BE HELD EACH YEAR TO REVIEW THE AGREEMENT. EACH PARTICIPANT AT ANY TIME MAY SUGGEST MODIFICATIONS OR CONSULTATIONS. THE PARTICIPANTS WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO DECLARE UNILATERALLY THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT. PARTICIPANTS, HOWEVER, WILL MEET BEFORE CHANGING THE ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGREEMENT. AFTER 30 DAYS' ADVANCE NOTICE, ANY PARTICIPANT MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE AGREEMENT BY MEANS OF AN UNILATERAL DECLARATION.

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6. COPIES OF THE PROPOSED MANDATE ARE BEING SENT TO THE FOLLOWING: STATE/ODF- SWART; TREASURY- PELIKAN; EXIMBANK-MINIKES.

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